Date	Section	Foundation stone laid by
14-04-1983	Jammu-Udhampur	Late Smt. Indira Gandhi
15-03-1997	Udhampur-Katra	Sh. H.D. Deve Gowda
26-07-1997 at Qazigund (Starting Point)	Qazigund-Baramulla	Sh. I.K. Gujral
27-07-1997 at Baramulla (Terminating point)	Qazigund-Baramulla	Sh. I.K. Gujral

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Technical plan to address drought problem

†1677. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the failure of monsoon and drought in the country are becoming a permanent problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the technical plan of Government to keep the agriculture out of the affect of drought in the country; and

(d) the plans Government have for agriculture diversification other than technical plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Due to the varied agro-climatic regions and variation in the extent of rainfall during the monsoon season across the country, some parts of the country do suffer from drought like phenomenon. In 2009-10, due to the erratic behaviour of South-West Monsoon, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh declared drought/drought like/scarcity conditions.

(c) and (d) Declaration of drought is the domain of the State Government as also the responsibility to draw technical plan to minimize the affect of drought on agriculture. However, the Central Government closely monitors the progress of monsoon and takes actions deemed fit as well as advises the State Governments for appropriate action to minimize the impact of deficit rainfall on agriculture. Technical Plan of the Government includes providing additional allocation of power from the Central pool and diesel subsidy to save the standing crop in the field; providing appropriate agricultural advisories, positioning of inputs, use of Truthful Labelled (TL) seeds, relaxation in age for seed varieties, distribution of minikits under the Government programmes and subsidy to use certified seeds to enable taking up of diversified crop plans in unsown/germination

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

failed areas as well as early Rabi; use of fund under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, like, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Macro management in Agriculture (MMA) to create agriculture infrastructure and facilitate in taking up of specific crop strategy to achieve higher production.

Objective of fertilizer subsidy

†1678. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether objective of providing subsidy on fertilizers is to promote agricultural production;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether agricultural production has increased by 8.37 per cent and there has been growth of 6.92 per cent in production rate during 2001-2002 to 2007-2008;

(d) if not, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there has been increase of 214 per cent in subsidy amount during the said period; and

(f) if not, the facts in this regard and whether it is also a fact that the agricultural sector is not getting the advantage of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Providing subsidy on fertilizers is one of the objectives to promote application of fertilizers to enhance agricultural production.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The foodgrain production during the period from 2001-02 to 2007-08 increased by about 8-42%. The per hectare foodgrain yield also increased from 1734 kg in 2001-02 to 1860 kg in 2007-08, the increase being about 7.27%.

(e) and (f) The increase in fertilizer subsidy has been about 241% during the period. The requirement of fertilizers subsidy during last few years has risen sharply, partially due to increase in consumption of fertilizers and mainly due to sharp increase in price of fertilizer inputs and finished fertilizers.

Decline in production of foodgrains

1679. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether kharif crops of rice, wheat and other foodgrains and pulses have dwindled considerably this year or is likely to fall short of estimates; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.